

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. Plant-Based Purchasing Savings for City and Climate

Submitted by: Councillor Fry

WHEREAS

1. Anthropogenic climate change is forcing governments and systems to consider how human behaviour and consumption can be modified in order to help meet the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 target to limit global warming to 1.5 °C;
2. The IPCC has advised that a plant-based diet can help fight climate change, specifically as the West's high consumption of meat and dairy produce is fuelling global warming;

Livestock farming (the management and breeding of domestic, livestock, or farm animals for the purpose of obtaining their meat and products) is estimated to take up around 30% of the earth's surface and contribute 18% of all global greenhouse gas emissions;

3. The City of Vancouver declared a Climate Emergency in January 2019, and on November 17, 2020, Council approved the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP). The Big Moves articulated in the Plan focus on zero emissions in transportation, heating systems, and construction;

The CEAP Report acknowledges one main lever to reduce food system emissions is adopting diets low in animal products (particularly beef, pork and dairy) and working towards a low-carbon food system for Vancouver will require:

- a. Identifying potential changes to City procurement and practices through the new Green Operations Plan; and
 - b. Actions to support urban agriculture as one means of increasing opportunities for sustainable food production and the harvesting and availability of plant-based foods;
4. The City of Vancouver's Healthy City Strategy articulates the goal of Feeding Ourselves Well: through a healthy, just, and sustainable food system;
 5. Plant-based diets are increasingly seen as a healthier option by Canadians, as excessive meat consumption has been shown to increase saturated fat intake and is linked to obesity and a variety of diseases;
 6. Plant-based diets are driving profits and growth in the grocery and food services industry¹ and creating a variety of local business success stories. Vancouver is consistently named as a global plant-based foodie

capital;²

7. Vancouver's status as an economic centre for plant-based products is growing. Setting targets for plant-based options in the City's food procurement can send a powerful signal to the food production and processing industries of further growth potential;
8. The Vancouver Humane Society (VHS) report Increasing Plant-Based Purchasing at the Municipal Level³ is urging the City of Vancouver to incorporate meat-reduction efforts into the City's greater ecological objectives.

In the report, VHS has conducted an analysis of the City of Vancouver's current food purchasing activities including: Vancouver Civic Theatres concessions, City event catering contracts, low-cost meal programs, Parks Board concession services and golf course food service, and the Vancouver School Board's Food4School program;

9. The Vancouver Humane Society analysis has proposed three alternative City of Vancouver procurement/replacement options for a 20% reduction in animal-based products. Implementing just one of these options would save up to \$99,000 in procurement costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 500 tonnes. Additionally, the replacement of 20% animal-based options with plant-based options is projected to increase sales revenues by 14% (\$400,000) and save the equivalent of nearly 400 farmed animals a year.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council declare that plant-based procurement can result in cost and budget efficiencies, help to promote healthier choices for Vancouverites, support local plant-based businesses, meet demonstrated food and dining trends, and respond to the Climate Emergency.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to report back with policy on how a partial shift to plant-based procurement can save the City on costs and greenhouse gas emissions, and consider one or all of the Vancouver Humane Society proposed policy change options, including:
 - a. a 20% reduction in all animal-based products;
 - b. a 20% reduction in the most cost-intensive animal-based products; or
 - c. a 20% reduction in the most carbon-intensive animal-based products.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to share the report back with Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, Vancouver Economic Commission, and Vancouver School Board for information.

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1. Plant-based goes mainstream
<https://ccentral.ca/plant-based-goes-mainstream>
2. Vancouver ranked one of the world's most popular cities for vegans
<https://biv.com/article/2021/01/vancouver-ranked-one-worlds-most-popular-cities-vegans>
3. Vancouver Humane Society report
[Increasing Plant-Based Purchasing at the Municipal Level](#) (PDF)

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